

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01211 231905Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 /025 W  
-----002916 240353Z /20

R 231615Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5803  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCO

UNCLAS PANAMA 1211

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

THE FOLLOWING SENT FROM USIS/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE  
DATED FEB 23 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO QUOTE

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY -- GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA AND MATUTINO  
FEBRUARY 23 HEADLINED A WASHINGTON DATELINE EFE CABLE ON  
PROCEDURAL VOTE IN SENATE. CRITICA'S SPREAD HEAD AS FOLLOWS:  
"CARTER ASSURED TREATY VOTES," AND MATUTINO: "CARTER HAS VOTES  
TO APPROVE TREATIES." LA ESTRELLA AND STAR & HERALD FRONT-  
PAGED AP AND PANAMANIAN PRESS ATTACHE REPORTS RESPECTIVELY  
WHICH WERE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR INTERPRETATIONS OF THE  
VOTE.

2. REACTION TO THE SENATE DRUG CHARGES AGAINST GENERAL TORRIJOS  
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AND FAMILY HAS SUBSIDED. MATUTINO'S LEAD EDIT FEBRUARY 23  
COMPARES TREATY OPPONENTS IN THE SENATE WHO "CLOSE THEIR MINDS  
AND EVEN THEIR EYES TO THE IRREFUTABLE TRUTHS OF HISTORY ...  
(AND) HAVE TRIED TO ACCUSE IN A RASH WAY AN ENTIRE NATION OF  
MASSIVE DRUG TRAFFICKING, PERMITTED AND STIMULATED BY ITS  
HIGHEST AUTHORITIES," TO THOSE WHO "FROM THE  
START HAVE UNDERSTOOD BOTH THE JUST PANAMANIAN CLAIMS AND

THE ADVANTAGES THE NEW TREATY BRINGS FOR THEIR NATION."

3. MATUTINO CONCLUDES ON A CONILIATORY NOTE: "AN INTERESTING PICTURE; DIVERSE, COMPLEX, WORTH STUDYING AS THE BEHAVIOR OF A LARGE NATION IN WHICH THERE IS ROOM FOR LARGE ERRORS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME FOR SUCCESSES AND FOR MEN WHO DIGNIFY AND REAFFIRM THE TRUTH OF ITS GREATNESS."

4. THE DEBATE WAS BROADCAST LIVE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON IN ENGLISH ON AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND IN SPANISH ON GOP OFFICIAL RADIO LIBERTAD. THURSDAY MORNING SESSIONS AS OF 10:45 ARE BEING CARRIED ON ARMED FORCES RADIO ONLY. RADIO LIBERTAD'S TRANSMISSION NOT YET ON AIR DUE TECHNICAL PROBLEM. ITEM UNQUOTE  
JORDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA01211  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780085-0463  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PANAMA  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** bc599ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3505974  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION THE FOLLOWING SENT FROM USIS/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE DATED FEB 23 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO Q  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/bc599ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014